

AMIAA News

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With Annual Report Highlights



*The Congregation of The Armenian Evangelical Church
of Sydney, Australia, Celebrating Their 40th Anniversary*



AMAA NEWS

is a publication of
the Armenian Missionary Association of America,
31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.
Tel. (201) 265-2607; Fax (201) 265-6015
E-Mail: amaa@amaa.org;
Website: www.amaa.org
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COVER PICTURE

The Congregation of the Armenian Evangelical
Church of Sydney, Australia
Celebrating their 40th Anniversary

God's Love For Us

Andrew Torigian

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17).

A lot of people think St. Valentine's Day is a sentimental, silly thing. But in every heart, there is a door that opens into the truths of our very existence – a door that opens our eyes and let's us see that God's universe exists. In every lighthearted Valentine wish, there lies a seed for the liberation that all people seek throughout their lives – LOVE, as God defines it.

God gives us the gift of self-awareness and, in turn, the presence of the Lord in us acts according to the state of our love toward our neighbor and the state of our faith. The Lord is present in our love toward our neighbor, because He is present in everything good. Even though we have faith; faith without love is a disconnected thing. For a union to exist, there must be a means to unite, which is nothing short of love and kindness.

The Lord has compassion on everyone, loves everyone, and wants to bring everyone eternal joy. Therefore, if we are lacking the kind of love that causes us to have compassion on others, to love them, and to wish to bring joy, we cannot be united with the Lord because we are not at all like Him.

Without love, life is purposeless. The consciousness within us that values life, and with affection creatively gives back to it, spans the whole spectrum of love that we can feel for one another. The nature of the love that is God is such, that we can only partake of the joys through conscious choice, through our free will. That was our first Valentine from the Lord.

Our words must match our actions if we really mean them. Romans 5:8 tells us **"But God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."** In this way, God showed His great love for us. Do we show our love for Him?

The origin of Valentine's Day is unclear. It may have originated from St. Valentine, a Roman martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. Also, it is believed St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, signing it "From Your Valentine." This may also be St. Valentine who served as a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius had Valentine jailed for marrying couples. Claudius had forbidden young men to marry to increase his army. He was martyred on February 14, 269 AD. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius designated February 14 to honor St. Valentine.



31 WEST CENTURY ROAD, PARAMUS, NJ 07652
PHONE: (201) 265-2607, FAX: (201) 265-6015, E-MAIL: AMAA@AMAA.ORG

February 2007

Dear Friends:

“The Lord is risen!” Is there any better news? When Jesus was crucified, much grief and sadness overwhelmed those who were close to Him. When His body was placed in a tomb and was sealed with a huge stone, almost all hope for a saving King evaporated. On the third day when Mary and Mary Magdalene came and found the empty tomb, they were even more frightened and frustrated. It is only then that the good news came. This was actually the best thing that could have happened! An angel appeared and told them, “He is not here; he has risen” (Matthew 28:6). Jesus was indeed resurrected. We know this, because the women came, they saw, and then ran to witness to the disciples. They proclaimed, “The Lord is risen indeed.”

We need to bring others to come and see the Lord is risen. The great news of the glorious resurrection needs to be shared with others. The promise of life after death should be declared. The promise of hope for a better life should be conveyed. The confirmation that love has won over hatred should be shown. The fact that eternal comfort and peace exists should be announced. Just as the women disciples of Christ did as they witnessed the resurrection, so did the apostles, and so also must we – Proclaim “the Lord is risen, and He is risen indeed.”

How do we show to the world that the Lord is risen indeed? We do this as we share God’s promises with others; as we show divine love with those who experience hatred; as we bring hope to the hopeless; and as we bring relief to those who are in pain. We do it in deed as we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and provide shelter to the homeless. Otherwise, Christ’s suffering and glorious resurrection remains meaningless to the world.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is actively proclaiming “The Lord is risen” with words and deeds. We reach out to change lives in every way: Spiritually and physically. Of course, we could never do this alone. The AMAA salutes all those who have taken the challenge and indeed have participated in proclaiming this great news of glory, whether by direct involvement or through financial contributions. We challenge our members and friends to continue doing so. It is critical we continue to proclaim Christ in word and deed. If there still is one lost soul, one person in pain, one child hungry, or one elderly person hopeless, then there is still work to be done. Especially during this sacred time of the year, please continue to help us to help them. May God richly bless you as you proclaim, “The Lord is risen indeed.”

Քրիստոս Յարեալ է Մեռելոց. Օրհնեալ է Յարութիւնը Քրիստոսի:
“Kristos haryav ee merelotz. Orhnyal e haroutuneh Kristosi”
(Christ is resurrected from the grave. May his resurrection be blessed).

In Christ’s service,

Andrew Torigian
Executive Director

Dikran Youmshakian
Field Director

AMAA Annual Report Highlights - Fiscal 2005-2006

The year 2006 marked the 160th anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church. On July 1, 1846, forty men and woman, prompted by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, formed the first Armenian Evangelical Church in Pera, Istanbul. Their aim was to take the Gospel message seriously and make it available to the world through preaching and reaching out to the needs of people worldwide. This vision was passed to the generation that followed and it was not easy. Armenians experienced hardships, including the genocide. There was need for action. In 1918, The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was established to inspire renewed hope through the message of the Gospel and through reaching out to meet the physical needs. It is with this commitment that the AMAA continues to serve and provide the following services.

Armenia

- Relief to needy families
- Sponsorship of 2800 needy children & their families
- Health Care Center in Yerevan
- Two Dental Clinics in Yerevan and Vanatsor
- Theological Academy of Armenia
- Avedissian School in Yerevan
- Operation of 6 Kindergartens
- Scholarship to College & University students
- Operate Sheen Summer Camp in Hankavan
- Christian Education Programs in 67 locations
 - Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, Youth Groups
- Milk formula for over 600 infants with special needs
- Christmas Programs and distribution of gifts
- Publication & Distribution of Bibles and Christian materials
- Support orphanages, nurseries, children's hospitals
- Support for the Union of the Evangelical Churches and its 65-member churches and fellowships

Argentina

- Relief to needy families and elderly people
- Distribution of Bibles & Devotional literature

Australia

- Financial support to the Armenian Evang'l Church
- Distribution of Christian literature

Belgium

- Support the Armenian Evang'l Churches
- Distribution of Christian literature

Brazil

- Support the Armenian Evang'l Church
- Scholarship to needy college students
- Relief to needy families
- Distribution of Christian literature

Bulgaria

- Support the Armenian Evang'l Churches
- Funding of Summer Youth Camps
- Relief to needy families
- Distribution of Christian literature

Canada

- Support the Armenian Evang'l Church of Cambridge
- Scholarship to needy college students
- Distribution of Christian literature

Cyprus

- Tuition Sponsorship for needy students
- Distribution of Christian literature

Egypt

- Support the ministry of the Armenian Evang'l Church of Alexandria
- Distribution of Christian literature

France

- Support two Christian Camps
- Financial Assistance to Panpere & Le Lumignon publications
- Support the general Ministries of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France
- Relief to needy retired teachers and pastors
- Support for the Armenian Evang'l Fellowship of Europe
- Church building renovations
- Distribution of Christian literature

**AMAA
Mission and
Service
Ministries
includes
140 Projects
in
22 countries**

Churches and Missions: 33



Evangelism: 45 Project



AMAA at Work Around the World

Georgia

- Support the ministry of local Armenian Evang'l Churches
- Funding of Summer Youth Camp
- Relief to needy families
- Operate a Soup Kitchen
- Distribution of Christian literature

Greece

- Support the Armenian Evang'l KG of Kokkinia
- Support the ministries of the local churches
- Tuition aid to needy students
- Distribution of Christian literature

Iran

- Support the ministry of the three local churches
- Distribution of Christian literature

Karabagh

- Relief to 200 orphans and needy children
- Operate Shushi Summer Camp
- Christian Education Programs for children and Youth
 - Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, Youth Groups
- Distribution of milk formula to infants with special needs
- Operation of six kindergartens
- Distribution of Christian literature

Lebanon

- Support Haigazian University
- Support four High Schools, one Middle School and two Elementary Schools
- Support the Centers for the Armenian Handicapped
- Financial aid to Daily Vacation Bible Schools
- Support Christian Endeavor Youth Camps
- Funding the programs of the Armenian Evang'l Social Service Center
- Special grants to subsidize the salaries of local pastors
- Support youth ministries
- Relief to needy families

Russia

- Support the ministries of the Armenian Evang'l Churches of Moscow and Sochi
- Distribution of Christian literature

Syria

- Support six Elementary Schools
- Financial assistance for KCHAG summer camp in Kessab
- Financial aid to Daily Vacation Bible Schools
- Financial aid to financially weak churches
- Relief provision to needy retired teachers
- Financial aid to the Association for the Armenian Blind.
- Financial aid to the Armenian Old Age Home of Aleppo
- Special grants to subsidize the salaries of local pastors
- Support for medical and dental clinics of Christ's Church in Aleppo
- Support for social and relief services
- Relief to needy families

Turkey

- Support local Armenian Evangelical Churches
- Distribution of Christian literature

United States

- Financial aid to six Armenian Evangelical Churches & Fellowships
- Financial aid to Merdinian & Sahag-Mesrob Schools
- Financial aid to Theological Students and interns
- Financial aid to Ararat Home
- Financial aid to Camp Arev and Camp Arevelk
- Financial aid to the AEUNA's Youth Ministry
- Financial aid to AEUNA's publication
- Scholarship to needy college and university students
- Organized Literary Contests
- Emergency relief aid for victims of natural disasters, such as the Hurricane Katrina
- Distribution of Christian literature

Uruguay

- Financial assistance to the local church
- Relief provisions to needy families
- Distribution of Bible & Christian literature

Other Countries

- Support an orphanage in Mozambique
- Support the Ferraz de Vasconcellos mission center of the Armenian Evang'l Church of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Emergency relief aid for victims of natural disasters
- Support new ministries in other countries in Europe, such as Germany and Holland

Education: 30 Program



Relief: 32 Projects



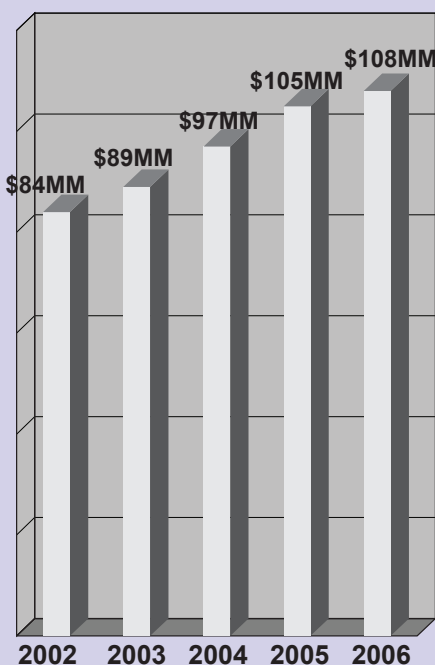
And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

(Matthew 24:14)

Financial Highlights

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) emphasizes full financial disclosure, accountability and careful stewardship of funds. The financial statements of the AMAA are audited by independent auditors in accordance with guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. This represents a summary of the Financial Statements. The Auditor's report and complete Financial Statements are available from the AMAA upon request.

NET ASSETS OF THE AMAA



God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.
(Hebrews 6:10)

Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. Consolidated Statements of Financial Position As of July 31, 2006

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 624,067
Accounts Receivable and prepaid expenses	144,450
Pledges Receivable	<u>300,000</u>
Total Cash & Receivables	<u>1068,517</u>
Investments:	
Cash equivalents	8,555,377
Corporate stocks	69,290,476
Bonds and notes	13,021,154
Real estate	<u>11,369,207</u>
Total Investments	<u>\$102,236,214</u>
Loans receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$50,000	1,559,400
Land, buildings, and equipment at cost, less accumulated depreciation of \$1,910,207	<u>4,925,453</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$109,789,584</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	44,951
Custodial accounts	<u>1,492,382</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 1,537,333</u>

Net Assets

Unrestricted	3,038,753
Temporarily restricted	6,227,328
Permanently restricted	<u>98,986,170</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 108,252,251</u>

Total Liabilities and Net Assets

\$109,789,584

Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
For the Years Ended July 31, 2006

Revenues, Gains & Other Support

Contributions and bequests	\$ 3,974,255
Net realized gains (losses) on investments	(324,645)
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	1,728,278
Investment income (Note 3)	3,771,777
Transfer investment income	0
Net assets released from restrictions - Satisfaction of program objectives	0

Total Revenues, Gains & Other Support **\$ 9,149,665**

Program Services

Education	
Child education	\$ 764,961
General scholarship	157,881
Leadership and theological training	135,361
Haigazian University of Beirut	360,447
Relief	2,497,320
Evangelism	533,237
Churches and missions	282,674
Publications	80,974
Living trusts	12,697

Supporting Services

Travel and hospitality	40,022
Legal expense	24,384
Office administration	836,994
Depreciation	178,508

Total Expenses **\$ 5,905,460**

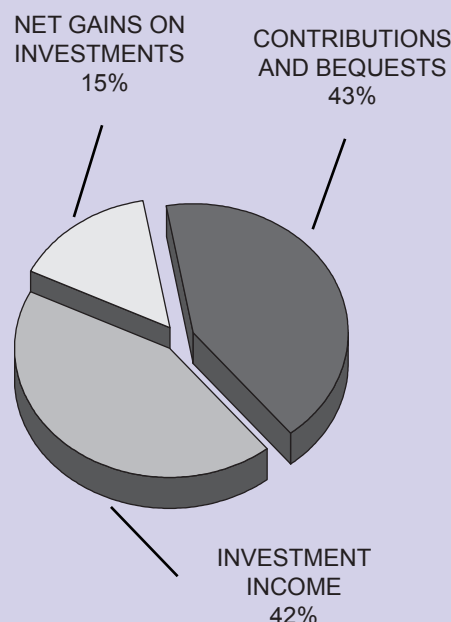
Change in Net Assets **\$ 3,244,205**

Net Assets at Beginning of Year 105,008,046

Net Assets at Year-End **\$108,252,251**

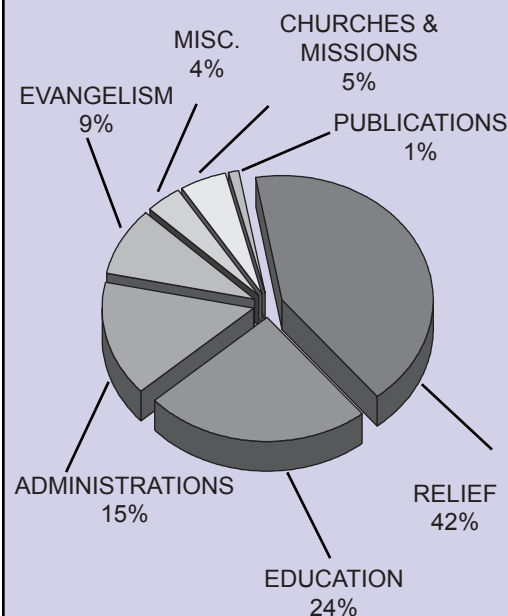
HOW INCOME WAS RECEIVED

Percentage of Income



HOW IT WAS SPENT

Percentage of Expenses



Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney Celebrates 40th Anniversary

In commemorating the 160th anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical church establishment and its own 40th anniversary, the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney, Australia organized several events and hosted numerous guests throughout 2006.

On March 25, 300 people attended the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia annual banquet, which included a fashion show displaying Mr. Kevork Shadoyan's Armenian garments. The Chairman of the Community Relations Commission, Mr. Stepan Kerkyasharian, was the patron of the evening.

In April and May, the church was privileged to host the minister of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Gedik Pasha, Istanbul, Rev. Krikor Agabalougrou. He enlightened them with a series of Evangelistic challenging messages.

Thanks to the Woman's Auxiliary, a large quantity of quilts, blankets, clothing, and hats were sent to Armenia's needy through the Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) Armenia office.

In September, church members participated in a conference in Armenia organized by the Armenian Evangelical World Council, celebrating the 160th anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical church. A small group also experienced a memorable tour of Historic Armenia.

In November, the church celebrated their 40th anniversary with a concert, thanksgiving worship, and a banquet. On this joyous occasion, their guests from overseas were Mr. Andrew Torigian, AMAA Executive Director, Rev. René Léonian, AMAA Representative in

Armenia and his wife, Mrs. Sylvie Léonian.

On November 11, a concert was held at the church during which one of their younger talents, Natalie Aroyan, beautifully performed Arias from European operas and traditional Armenian classics. They were also delighted by the performances of Paul Purzekian on piano, Sirag Aroyan on the flute, and Vana Purzekian on the Violoncello. Leanna Paproumian and Varak Youmoushakian, youth members of the church, were the MC's.

A 40th anniversary service was held on November 12. Leaders from various organizations and the government attended the service. The service was led by Rev. Youmoushakian, with Father Vartan Navasartian representing his Eminence Archbishop Aghan Balyozian and the Uniting Church of Australia North Sydney Presbytery Chairman Graham Perry giving words of congratulations. A congratulatory letter from the President of the Union of the Ar-



Andrew Torigian, AMAA Executive Director, speaking at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney, prior to their Communion Service.



Some of the guests at the 40th Anniversary Banquet: Sarkis Manougian; Hovhannes Kouyoumdjian; Aram Hagopian; Vahe Artinian; Haig Mserlian (AGBU guest from USA); Lucy Aroyan; Andy Torigian, AMAA Executive Director; Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian, Pastor of the Church; Rev. René Léonian, AMAA Representative in Armenia; and Varoujan and Sylvia Iskenderian (Representative of Karabagh in Australia).



Meeting with the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia. Back row from left: Yerchan Giragossian; Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian, Pastor of the Church; Andrew Torigian, AMAA Executive Director; and Rev. René Léonian, AMAA Representative in Armenia. Front row from left: Asdghig Natarian; Lucy Aroyan; Maggie Ishkhanian; Lena Boymoushakian; and Araxie Soghomonian.



Cutting the 40th Anniversary Cake at the Banquet. from left: Andrew Torigian, AMAA Executive Director; Mr. Jim Mein, Uniting Church in Australia NSW Synod Moderator; Rev. Krikor Youmoushakian, Pastor of the Church; Rev. René Léonian, AMAA Representative in Armenia; and Rev. Graham Petty, Uniting Church in Australia Sydney, North Presbytery Chairman.

menian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Megerdich Karageozian, was read. An inspiring English sermon was delivered by Mr. Andrew Torigian and an Armenian sermon by Rev. Rene Levonian, which deeply moved the congregation. During the service a small group of young ladies sang in a choir led by Mrs. Laura Soghomonian.

In the evening of November 12, the banquet was held and the MC was Mrs. Arpi Tavitian. A quartet of Australian musicians preformed international pieces and Armenian compositions. Mr. Andrew Torigian was the keynote speaker. Greetings were delivered by Ms. Penny Sharp (representing the NSW Premier), the honourable Morris Iemma, Rev. René Léonian, Rev. Graham Perry, United Church NSW Synod Moderator Mr. Jim Mein, Mr. Stepan Kerkyasharian, and Father Vartan Navasartian. A presentation was given outlining the history of the church prepared by Yerchan Giragossian, Gregory Margossian, and Rev. Youmoushakian. At the close of the evening, Rev. Youmoushakian expressed his gratitude to the 40th anniversary committee and church council members, the participants of the program, sponsors, and donors.

The church now looks back on 40 years full of blessings for their achievements and praises the Lord for the grace and mercy He bestowed upon them. □

25th Anniversary Celebration of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood

The Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, California celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a banquet attended by about 300 people at Anush Banquet Hall in Glendale on November 19, 2006. Some of the leaders of the Armenian Evangelical community were there, including the President of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Dr. & Mrs. Steven H. Aharonian, AMAA Executive Director Mr. Andrew Torigian, the Moderator of the AEUNA Rev. & Mrs. Ron Tovmassian, Minister to the Union Rev. & Mrs. Joe Matossian, the Pastor of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church Rev. Ara Guekguezian, the Administrative Director of AEUNA Mr. & Mrs. Jack Loussarian, and the Pastors from Los Angeles Rev. & Mrs. Dikran Shanlian, *Badveli* & Mrs. Jack Chorlian, and Rev. Vartkes Kassouni.

The keynote speaker was Mr. Andrew Torigian, who was also the speaker at the morning worship service, which was a great blessing. Mr. Abe Chaparian, Esq. and Mrs. Gayane Martirossian were the MC's. There was also a wonderful program, which included an eight year old girl from their Sunday School, Lucy Shahinian, who gave her testimony and sang a solo. 20 people attended from Armenian Evangelical Church of Las Vegas with their Pastor Dr. Kegham Tashjian and they blessed the church with their choir's participation. The church is very grateful to the Las Vegas Church for their efforts and love. A plaque from AEUNA was presented by Rev. Joe Matossian and Rev. Ron Tovmassian to Rev. Abraham Chaparian and the church.

The church has a lot to thank God for and celebrate. God enabled them to reach out to their community and be a blessing to many families through various programs, including "New Direction for Armenian Youth," an outreach to youth at risk. They planted a church in Las Vegas with the support of the AEUNA and the AMAA, took mission trips to Armenia and shared the Gospel, and found employment for many of their newly-arrived people. They appreciate having a beautiful church building in one of the best areas in Hollywood, which became possible through the love and generosity of the AMAA.

The church praises God for their Banquet committee and all the young people who participated in making the banquet a success. The church appreciates the California AEUNA churches, which have been very supportive since the beginning of their ministry. The church also thanks the Lord Jesus Christ for their ministry and for all the people who love and support them with their prayers and finances. □



(l to r) Andrew Torigian, AMAA Executive Director, Mrs. Julie Aharonian, Rev. Abraham Chaparian, Minister of the Hollywood Church, Mrs. Mary Chaparian and Dr. Steven H. Aharonian President of the AMAA.

AMAA Aid to Lebanon: A Significant Blessing

When the three Kassabian children came home for Christmas vacation from boarding school in Ainjar, their only expectation was to spend time with their single father. They were, however, happily surprised also to receive Christmas gifts. This was unexpected because they knew it was hard for their Dad to make ends meet. Like many others, he did not have steady employment. Lebanon had just experienced the devastation of the July 2006 war.

The period following the “hot” summer of 2006 was depressing for thousands of families in Lebanon who lost their homes, businesses and the source of their limited income. “This was worse than ever, and it came at a time when we expected thousands of tourists,” said one shopkeeper sitting in front of his store. “Instead of tourists we got bombs and rockets. Now, there is a political crisis. How could we feed our children?”

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) responded to the urgent needs in Lebanon with an appeal that was made to the public in July of 2006. Thanks to the generosity of its members and caring friends, emergency relief aid was made available. Along with its annual budget of \$60,000.00 for social action services, \$50,000.00 in additional funds were sent to Lebanon to help needy families through the Social Action Committee (SAC).

The SAC is the social arm of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE). It addresses the great needs of impoverished families providing them food, clothing, medical aid or cash to pay for rent or utilities. Unfortunately, many Armenian families are impoverished and still have no utility services, like water and electricity.

In a recent report from SAC workers, we were informed that 324 Armenian families received emergency aid including payments for their medical, hospital, housing and educational needs. Some families were helped more than once due to on-going needs. In many cases, payments were made directly to pharmacies, hospitals, utility companies or to the landlords.

No wonder the Kassabian children were surprised to receive Christmas gifts and they were more than happy, even though these were very modest



Yes, *I want to show my solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Lebanon.*

Enclosed please find my donation in the amount of \$ _____.

Name _____

Address: _____

Tel. _____ E-Mail _____

*Please mail your tax deductible donations to AMAA,
31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652*

*To make a contribution with a credit/debit card or electronic debit to checking
account, please call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607*

compared to the electronic toys and gadgets that kids receive elsewhere. They were assured of the love and care of concerned people.

The children are now back at the Armenian Evangelical Boarding School in Ainjar. They are determined to work hard and, one day, to reciprocate for the love they experienced.

The AMAA continues to provide aid to the Middle East including support to churches, schools, summer camps and old age homes. Each year AMAA designates almost one million dollars for projects in the Middle East.

Those who want to show their solidarity with their brothers and sisters in Lebanon can send their caring gifts to the AMAA. □

Armenian Evangelical Church of São Paulo: 80 Years of Faithful Ministry

São Paulo, Brazil, with over 10 million inhabitants, is the world's third largest city and the largest in South America. The first Armenian refugees began to arrive in Brazil in the mid 1920's. In 1926 a few evangelicals undertook the task of establishing a church in São Paulo, and in 1927 a church was officially organized. A plot of land was bought in 1955 to build a sanctuary.

The name of the church implies its direct connection with the Armenian Evangelical Church worldwide, which was born in the heart of the Armenian people in the 19th century. The church continues to maintain its strong bonds with all the Armenian Evangelical Churches around the world. The founders of this church were Armenians originating from Aintab, Marash, Kharpert, Alepo, Hadjin, Damascus, Cesaréia, Beirut, Van, and other cities where they had lived and acquired their Armenian Christian heritage.

The doctrine of the church is from the "Confession of Faith of the Armenian Evangelical Church" which was generated from the oldest beliefs of the Christian Church – the Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds.

The Church and the Church Council have sought after the conservation of their Armenian identity by observing Armenian Holidays, so that the new generation will also learn and continue to maintain the Armenian heritage. The "Vartanantz", the most significant and important date for all Armenians (Battle of the Avarair), is commemorated in the church in the month of February. The commemoration of the Armenian Genocide on April 24 unites us with the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic churches to remember the tragic events of 1915.

Since 2003, Rev. Dr. Roy Abrahamian is the senior pastor of the church and Rev. Dionisio Straw Ataide is the Assistant Pastor. In 2004, the Church affiliated itself with the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.

The Armenian Evangelical Church of São Paulo, makes every effort to maintain the Armenian language along with the Portuguese. During the worship services hymns are sung in Armenian as well, with Armenian Bible readings and short Armenian meditations.

The Armenian population of São Paulo is about 15,000. At present the church has around 60 families (180 persons) with approximately 50 infants/children attending Sunday School. Besides the Sunday Worship Services and Sunday School, the Ladies Society meets every Wednesday afternoon for Bible Study and other activities.

In the 1970s the church initiated worship services and Sunday School classes in Ferraz De Vasconcelos, a poor neighboring town, where a few Armenians had settled. Gradually, the number of worship attendance increased as non-Armenian believers living in the area joined the church. At present, around 100 people attend church services in Ferraz de Vasconcelos and about 85 children attend the Sunday School. Besides the Sunday Worship Service Bible studies are also held for adults on Saturdays, with 70 participants. The church also holds a special social service program in Ferraz de Vasconcelos to meet the material needs of the poor



(top to bottom) The Armenian Evangelical Church of São Paulo - Sunday morning Worship Service; Some of the Sunday School children participating in the worship service; Distribution of assistance to the needy people in Ferraz de Vasconcelos.

people living in the area, especially by delivering food on regular basis and Christmas gifts to the children.

The church of São Paulo faithfully serves its purpose, preserving its Armenian Evangelical identity as well as its Armenian culture, language and traditions, believing that preserving the identity of the present generation will help them pass it on to the future generations.

The church is grateful for the loving support of the AMAA for the continuation of their ministry. □

“Little Hands, Big Heart” Raises Over \$250,000 For Children in Armenia and Karabagh

The AMAA New Jersey Orphan and Child Care Committee hosted its “Little Hands, Big Heart” Luncheon on Sunday, February 11th, at Seasons in Washington Township, NJ. The event featured a Children’s Fashion Show, showcasing young people modelling clothes to be sent to needy children of Armenia and Karabagh.

Over 200 guests attended the fundraiser luncheon. They, along with the 60 children who modeled, served as agents of outreach to those less fortunate. The effect of the event was truly multi-generational: Parents guided youngsters along the runway, while children displayed stylish fashions and grandparents relished in the participation of their little ones. Guests also engaged in a silent auction offering an array of donated items including jewellery, artwork, tickets to concerts and gift certificates.

After opening remarks by David Collignon, Fashion Show Coordinator and Master of Ceremonies, Mary Jane Hekemian, Orphan and Child Care Chair, warmly welcomed everyone. She thanked all the parents and the children for their participation and willingness to reach out and help other children in need. Mrs. Hekemian spoke of the tremendous improvement already being made in the lives of children and their families who have been touched by the work of the committee and its supporters, showing photographs of these children who had lacked the basic necessities of life, but now

receive the comforts of proper clothing, nutrition and even housing through the Orphan Child Care Program.

Mrs. Hekemian gave special thanks to David and June Collignon, for arranging the donation of garments and footwear valued at \$100,000 from The Children’s Place. These items will be sent and distributed to those needy children in Armenia and Karabagh.

During the Fashion Show, Mr. Collignon introduced each child by name, adding such personal details as favourite foods, hobbies and future plans. Outfits worn ranged from warm winter active wear, sportswear, and sleepwear to festive party fashions. Many guests were entertained by the parade of young models, as well as touched by the sentiments of concern expressed for the children of Armenia have now pledged to sponsor children whose photographs were displayed on each table during the luncheon.

Mr. Andrew Torigian, Executive Direc-

tor of the AMAA, thanked the Orphan and Child Care Committee for their tireless efforts in making this fundraiser such a success. He also presented a plaque to the committee for their wonderful work.

In addition to the clothing modeled, youngsters and their families donated many more new outfits to be sent and distributed to the needy children in various areas of Armenia and Karabagh. □



The NJ Orphan and Child Care Committee receiving plaque from Andrew Torigian, Executive Director of the AMAA



Christmas Celebrations in Armenia and Karabagh

Every year, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA) organize Christmas programs throughout Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia. This year was not an exception. During December 2006 and January 2007, AMAA and ECA organized Christmas programs in 40 locations throughout Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia and nearly 20,000 people participated..

AMAA and ECA hold Christian Education ministries for children, youth and young adults in Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia. Children participating in the programs and those in the AMAA sponsorship program also participated in these Christmas programs organized by the leaders of Christian Education. Among these leaders were young adults who were children during the earthquake in 1988. In the previous years, it was very difficult for the Armenian people without light and heat but Armenia has now made progress, and it was easier for leaders in Armenia to serve God in better conditions, despite the severe winter cold in Armenia.

Each AMAA/ECA center organized its own Christmas program where 50 to 800 children and youth participated. The program halls were decorated with colored balloons, lights, and Christmas Trees. The scenery was inspiring, imaginary and exciting especially when you saw the enthusiastic faces of the audience.

The Christmas programs included performances in which actors presented Christ's birth and conveyed the meaning and importance of this birth, by telling about the plan of God's salvation. In some centers God's message about Jesus Christ's birth was proclaimed by song, games and other forms of art.

Children took part in most of the Christmas programs by singing, dancing and reciting Bible verses. The highlight of the programs was a visit by Santa Clause bringing gifts. At the end, the participants returned home with joy in their hearts.

In a special program, AMAA cooperated with the Armenian Apostolic Church and local authorities in the Republic of Mountaineous Karabagh in distributing gifts to thousands of school children.

In Yerevan, AMAA and ECA made three presentations of a Christmas play in the local 600-seat theater called "Stanislavski State Russian Dramatical Theatre". The performance was called "The Secret of the Magic Key," produced by Nune Abrahamyan. Over 2,000 children, youth and parents participated. The Armenian national TV and other media reported on the performance. The play was full of action, most enjoyable to children. Here are some of the comments of participants.

This year I saw Christmas performance organized by AMAA Armenia office whose producer was Nune Abrahamyan. The actors were small children who showed the baby Jesus very nicely. Then performed the "Lost Key's Secret." I liked Father Carlo who found the lost Pinocchio and his friends defended them from Carabas-Barabas. - Anahit, Yerevan

I was a god-child of Sunday School in Yerevan. I took place in the performance devoted to Christmas. In the performance I liked the part where Mary and Joseph thanked God for Jesus who was



a saviour of the whole world. Again I was sure that good won over evil.

- Mary, Yerevan

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of AMAA and on behalf of the tens of thousands of participating children, we thank those who prayed for and contributed towards these Christmas programs.

We are also very appreciative of the volunteers of the Camp-Christmas Program, as well as the AMAA's Orphan and Child Care and Summer Camp/Christmas Committees of AMAA. We acknowledge their creative efforts at raising funds for and generating awareness of these Christmas programs.

Most importantly, we praise God for enabling us all to reach out to these children with the love of Jesus Christ. □



A Journey to Armenia: *Land of Contrasts*

Michèle Simourian*

I went to Armenia with many thoughts and emotions. I had long wanted to see this little country or, at least, what remained of my ancestral homeland. Those feelings set me up for expectations which, I did not think, could possibly be met. Reality exceeded those expectations!

A feeling of overwhelming pride and joy came over me as I gazed upon Zvartznots Airport's Arrival terminal when I landed: a feeling which never left me throughout my trip even as it was often accompanied by utter sadness. How, I asked myself, could Armenia manage this level of modernity, organization and beauty and the latest in 21st Century technology to welcome its visitors? I have known through my work with AMAA for many years that Armenia's resources are limited, that unemployment is very high as the economy had suffered enormously after Perestroika and the 1988 earthquake.

From those first moments on Armenian soil and throughout my trip I was faced with constant contrasts and the manner in which our Armenian brothers and sisters manage to make the impossible happen!

Yerevan's Republic Square is gorgeous in its layout. The buildings surrounding it are magnificent in architecture and warm in color, built as they are in various hues of cream and ochre *duf* stones. These colors glow even in the rain and lend the square a sunny appearance. Here one sees BMWs and Mercedes, bustling well dressed business men and women, one could be in an affluent European city. Oh, but what I found when probing beyond those buildings is another grayer world which seems to have been left behind. It is firmly anchored in the mid 20th century soviet days except that now, it is heartbreaking to see youths standing in the streets without purpose as factories and work have come to a standstill for far too many. Laundry is hanging from lines outside apartments stacked one on top of the other in poor state of repair and bleak looking. There are no luxury cars here, only old rusty Russian cars, some as old as twenty years: how do they still run? The sad feelings I mentioned earlier came as I witnessed the misery of people struggling to survive. They represent 90% of the population, I was told, and the contrast could not be more dramatic between them and the 10% of those seen on Republic Square two or three blocks away. Just as telling about the class differences as the BMWs and rusty old cars driving along the same roads, are the mansions being built next door to houses which look ready to fall down. There does not appear to be a middle class: just the very wealthy and the very poor.

What of the countryside? Once again I saw great contrasts between the stark beauty of the stony, rather arid surroundings leading to Gumri and the verdant, lush region around Dilijan and Lake Sevan, so like Switzerland. Just as France's countryside is dotted with beautiful castles so is Armenia's with ancient churches. There survive some 160 churches which date from the 4th to the 5th centuries alone and many more from later periods: these speak volumes for Armenia's Christian heritage and its importance to the



Meeting the Gumri KG students

Armenians. I was awed by the splendid Keghard and Khor Virab churches. I was inspired and never felt closer to God than in their exquisitely simple and refined interiors, their graceful domes directing the eye heavenward. The "Khatchkars" or crosses, such symbols of Christianity and Armenia, are everywhere and constant reminders of not only our faith triumphant throughout the ages, but also of the extraordinary skills of those who crafted them.

The pride of our people is evident everywhere I went. Gloriously designed monuments have been erected to honor the Armenian heroes throughout history such as the tombs of Christian martyrs, some lovingly encased in churches such as St. Gayane or St. Hripsime, clergy, poets, freedom fighters found in and around ancient monasteries and the more recent (1970's) Genocide Monument and Museum. These resting places reflect the love and respect of Armenians for those who have left them a heritage so rich in every way. The question never far from my mind as I marveled at all the magnificent miniatures at the *Matenadaran* and so many other treasures of Armenia was: what does the future hold for this little country so poor now?

On good clear days, as I journeyed to certain parts of Armenia, I had a constant and most awesome companion in Mount Ararat! It seemed so close yet was off limits as it is in Turkey. Visible for hours, it stood there majestic, solid and utterly beautiful! Its twin snow capped peaks reaching toward Heaven, soaring from its very flat surroundings, undaunted it seems by its separation from Armenia as it looks down calmly on the meandering Arax River: one bank in Armenia and the other in Turkey.

I could not help but see a similarity between the calm majesty of this magnificent mountain, its survival since the beginnings of mankind, and the dignity, pride, courage and survival of our compatriots and ancestors who have never been intimidated by the onslaught of countless enemies throughout the ages! They are not today dispirited by the poverty and the lack of economic opportunities in Armenia: they manage somehow. Their dignity in their difficult circumstances was evident everywhere I visited. Some of the homes, schools and AMAA offices I visited throughout Armenia were poor but without exception immaculate: so were the children and the parents who picked them up. How do they manage with electricity still intermittent and salaries so low? It is a wonder how the people can survive.

Our AMAA offices are mostly in old buildings, one is in a trailer, but they are equipped with modern tools to communicate, diagnose illnesses and distribute goods. Modern technology and science are at work to bring aid to our people. How marvelous it is to see how so much good can come from limited resources. How

Spiritual Corner

THE TEST OF OUR FAITH

- Dikran Youmshakian

"I consider that sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18).

Armenia was the first nation to accept Christianity (301 A.D.) Armenia was also the first nation tested for Christianity (451 A.D.) Vartan Mamigonian (St. Vartan) and a contingent of Armenian soldiers and volunteers fought, when a strong Persian army invaded Armenia and enforced the Persian State Religion of Zorastrianism for their faith and identity. At Avarair, the Persians won the military battle, but Armenians, at the cost of many lives, including St. Vartan's, passed the test of faith. Their secret was their commitment to faith motivated through the Biblical understanding that suffering of the present was not even worth comparing to the glory that would be revealed in the future.

Trials unfortunately always exist as people are continuously tested for their faith. Violence and unfortunate happenings add to already existing hardships to the extent that people lose hope and faith. Through our own means, we may not be able to overcome suffering, but when we rely and remind others the Apostle's words, and when we show our compassion, we help others and ourselves overcome our trials and pass the test of our faith.

Vartan and thousands of Armenians were in communion with Paul and followed Christ's example to give their lives, and Armenia and Armenians survived. Today we enjoy the freedom of worship. This was the promised glory in response to the test of their faith. □

A Journey to Armenia... Cont'd from the previous Page

this is achieved became very clear and inspiring as I traveled to the far flung centers which the AMAA operates: what it lacks in resources is made up by the courage, compassion and selflessness of those carrying our mission work in Armenia! To witness the working of pastors who often handle 3 or 4 churches and communities under sometimes enormously difficult conditions and hard to travel roads is to witness Christianity at its sacrificial best. The Youth Leaders I met, trained at the AMAA Seminary are infectious in their enthusiasm. They are avid learners under the care of marvelous visiting professors who come from abroad at great personal sacrifice. How patient, loving and talented are our teachers in our after school programs as they teach our youth computer literacy, foreign languages and skills which will give them a better start in life. How loving is the care given to hundreds of little ones in our kindergartens where pint sized tables and beds await them along with a nutritional meal daily! All these programs helping thousands are beautifully orchestrated by the devoted staff of AMAA Armenia; it's directors and leaders. Love, as they spread the Good News through their actions, is evident everywhere. The great respect they show for our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Armenia is a testament to their Christian Spirit. As I visited the house of a child, one of the 2,800 sponsored children in the AMAA Child Sponsorship Program; I was moved and inspired by the dignity in which the family receives help and by its efforts to reciprocate in a warm and welcoming hospitality.

I have always felt proud of my Armenian ancestry, but never more than on this trip. The present is troubled for the majority in Armenia, but our people, both those being helped and those bringing help, are determined and undaunted by it. I have no doubt

that with God's help, as in the past, the present and the hurdles it presents will also be overcome!

I have been active in the AMAA for 24 years and, while always impressed by the work of this admirable organization, I have never been more so than on this trip! May God continue to bless the AMAA, our benefactors and volunteers who make its work possible, and beautiful Armenia.

* Michèle Simourian is one of the Co-Founders of AMAA Orphan & Child Care and Past AMAA Board Member

Available from AMAA Book Service Program

"Mege Ga" Armenian Children's Songs on DVD and CD - Sing along as you experience the beautiful and historical sites of Armenia. Composed by Tamar Albarian. Arranged by Vahan Ohanyan. \$25 USD (plus \$4.00 for postage). Set includes 1 DVD and 1 CD.



Name _____

Address _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Make checks payable to AMAA - Canada: Payable in U.S. dollars.

C. & E. Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School 25th Anniversary Celebration Building For The Future

Joyce Abdulian

On Sunday, February 4, 2007, the Ararat Deukmejian Hall was filled with 400 friends of Merdinian School to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Initially, with no campus of its own, it has blossomed into a full-fledged, accredited institution serving the Armenian community from pre-K through 8th grade. Enthusiastic donors who believe in this mission swelled the school coffers to over \$204,000!

In attendance was Dr. Vahe Pierre Haig whose generous donation was in honor of Rev. Dr. Giragos H. Chopourian, former Executive Director of the AMAA, one of the leading proponents of the school. His late wife, Alice, with her dedication and expertise in education, was truly a mentor to the principal and teachers in the newly formed school. Mr. Harold DeMirjian was also thanked for his selfless, hands-on effort with Miss Merdinian and his many years of service to the school.

Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy, expressed his appreciation for the dedication of so many, helping bring the school to this major milestone. He brought greetings from Catholicos Aram I, and invited Mr. George Phillips, Sr., Merdinian School Man of the Year to the podium and presented him with an Encyclical from the Catholicos, honoring him for his major efforts on behalf of the school. Council General of the Republic of Armenia, Armen Liloyan, also shared his thoughts of appreciation for Merdinian School.

Principal Hovsep Inejikian welcomed everyone and introduced the keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Executive Director, Armenian Evangelical World Council who said, "Twenty-five years in the life of Merdinian is indeed a great milestone, considering all the odds at its founding. It was a true venture of faith. He said, "The Silver Anniversary is a time of accomplishments for providing excellent Armenian and Christian education. Time for thanksgiving for God's guidance and providence. Time for rededication to claim the future."

Dr. Hrair Atikian, Chairman of the Board of Directors proclaimed that "As of this evening, we are officially announcing our

major fund-raising campaign for a high school. It can be done—It must be done!" He shared two reasons why the Merdinian School should exist. First— it is a lighthouse that casts its beacon of faith and Christ's love which has come down to us from our forefathers. Second— Here our children learn their mother tongue, Armenian history, culture and traditions so vital in keeping our Armenian National identity.

Dr. Atikian then introduced the Merdinian School Man of the Year, Mr. George Phillips, Sr. He presented him with mementos of appreciation from the Board of Directors and Certificates of Recognition from federal, state, and city government agencies were given.

Mr. Phillips has from the inception of the school, been a diligent friend, tirelessly rendering voluntary legal services and being instrumental in obtaining generous donations from numerous foundations and charitable trusts. Mr. Phillips inspired everyone with his passionate acknowledgement of the importance of Merdinian School. He explained the school was incorporated under Armenian Evangelical Schools. The original intent was to have many schools named after more than one benefactor—and it still is. Mr. Phillips reminded us that, "Even though we in the Diaspora are now helping Armenia and the Middle East, if we do not build a firm foundation of Armenians who succeed in American society, our help will not be perpetuated unless succeeding generations here successfully join into and excel in American society."

Banquet Co-Chairs, Mrs. Rita Meneshian, Mrs. Rita Tilkian Hasserjian, Dr. Hrair Atikian, and the banquet committee wanted the evening to be a celebration, but also to honor and remember all those persons who have given of their talents and time so generously. All the original Board of Director members were highlighted as were the former principals. All the principals present from the local Armenian schools were also recognized. In



Mr. & Mrs. George Sr. and Suzie Phillips

attendance was Mr. Gabriel Inejikian who was the pioneer educator who envisioned and succeeded against great odds—the founding of the first local Armenian school, now Ferrahian High School.

Dr. Paul Narguizian, the Master of Ceremonies, introduced two alumni, Mr. Sebouh Asparian, Esq.— Class of '90 and Miss Lisa Markarian, Esq.—class of '95. Their remembrances and gratitude for their years at Merdinian were heartwarming. Concert Pianist, Mr. Harout Senekerimian delighted the crowd. Mr. Raffi Kerbabian, accompanied by Mrs. Esther Assilian led the American and Armenian anthems. Rev. Joseph Matossian, Minister to the AEUNA and Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Moderator of the AEUNA led in the invocation and benediction. □

RECOMMENDATION BY JOYCE STEIN NAME OF BOOK: A GIFT IN THE SUNLIGHT BY KAY MOURADIAN

This novel touched me very much because it takes place in the birthplace of my beloved family in Hadjin, Turkey. This true story begins in the mountainous enclave and with sensitivity weaves the tale of a bucolic life instantly interrupted by the brutal Ottoman Regime with death marches into the Syrian desert. This is must read novel – a testament to the suffering of our Armenian people and the brave who sought to alleviate their despair. Books can be ordered from: Garod Books, Ltd., c/o Whitehurst & Clark, 1200 County Rd., Route 523, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Վստահութեամբ եւ Առանց Երկմտանքի Մատթեոս 14. 22-33

Տիգրան Եւմշաբեան

Սարսափելի փոթորիկ մը կար: Նաւը ծովուն մէջտեղ ալեկոծութեան մէջ էր, որովհետեւ հովը հակառակ կողմէն կը փչէր: Աշակերտները կը վախճային իրենց կեանքին համար: Եւ այդ զարմանալի էր, որովհետեւ անոնք տակաւին քիչ առաջ ականատես եղած էին Յիսուսի մեծ հրաշքին - Հինգ հազարի կերակրելը հինգ հացով եւ երկու ձուկով: Հրաշքի այդ պահուն, աշակերտներուն խանդավառութիւնը սահման չունէր: Այս էր փրկարար Մեսիան: Սակայն, հիմա մութին մէջ եւ ալեկոծութեամբ խանգարուած, անոնք կը կորսնցնէին իրենց վստահութիւնը:

«Գիշերուան չորրորդ պահուն Յիսուս դէպի մարը գնաց ծովուն վրայէն քալելով», կ'ըսէ Մատթեոս Աւետարանիչը եւ կ'աւելցնէ, թէ աշակերտները ա'լ աւելի կը սարսափին: Այդ օրերուն ջուրի մէջ չար ոգիներու գոյութեան հաւատացողներ շատ կային: Աշակերտներն ալ կը խորհէին, թէ մահուան ոգին էր, որ զիրենք կը հետապնդէր:

«Քաջ եղէք, ես եմ, մի՛ վախճա՛ք» ըսաւ Յիսուս, որպէսզի փարատէ անոնց վախը: Սակայն, ինչպէս հատուածին շարունակութիւնը կը նկարագրէ, անոնք մնացին երկմիտ:

Աշակերտներէն Պետրոս՝ խանդավառուած՝ փափաքեցաւ ինք ալ ջուրին վրայ քալել, եւ գրեթէ յաջողեցաւ: Սակայն վախը, կասկածը եւ երկմտութիւնը պատճառ եղան, որ ան ընկղմէր, մինչեւ որ Տէրը մօտենար ու անոր ձեռքէն բռնէր:

Արդեօք կարելի՞ էր Պետրոսի համար իսկապէս ջուրին վրայ քալել: Բարեբախտաբար այս չէ մեզ հետաքրքրող նիւթը, որովհետեւ մարդ արարածին համար, ինչպէս Պետրոսի պարագային, ջուրի վրայ քալելը Թերեւս Թուրք անհնար եւ ոչ տրամաբանական:

Պետրոսի երկմտութիւնը կամ Թերահաւատութիւնը՝ ջուրին վրայ քալելու կամ ընկղմելու հարցը չէր, այլ կասկածը, թէ արդեօք իսկապէս կարելի՞ էր վստահիլ Յիսուսի՝ մութի մէջ այդ փոթորիկին ընթացքին: Այն վայրկեանին, որ Պետրոս կասկածեցաւ, ընկղմեցաւ ջուրին մէջ:

Կեանքի ընթացքին, մենք պիտի ենթարկուինք փոթորիկներու եւ փորձութիւններու, ինչպէս Յիսուսի աշակերտները եւ ինչպէս բոլոր մարդ արարածները, ներառել մեր նախահայրերը: Յանախ մեր ակնկալութիւնները տարբեր են Տէրոջ կամէն, եւ շատ անգամ մենք յուսախափ կ'ըլլանք, երբ մեր փափաքը մեր ուզած պայմաններով չ'իրականանար: Նման պարագաներու, մենք ալ հարցականի կ'առնենք Աստուծոյ կամքը եւ կարողութիւնը:

Երբ Յիսուս արտոբոցուց, որ աշակերտները մարը մտնէին, արդեօք Յիսուս տեղեակ չէ՞ր, որ այդ մութին մէջ՝ երբ հովը հակառակ կողմէն կը փչէր, փոթորիկը անխուսափելի էր:

Աստուած Տէրն է տիեզերքին եւ անկասկած տեղեակ է ամէն անձուդարձ: Արդ, Յիսուս ալ գիտէր պատահելիքը:

Ան նաեւ գիտէր, թէ միայն կեանքի փորձառութեամբ պիտի անէին աշակերտները իրենց հաւատքին մէջ: Ծովուն մէջ այդ փոթորիկն էր, որ անոնց պիտի նանչցնէր Յիսուսը, որպէս Աստուծոյ Որդին: Երանի այդպէս չըլլար:

Փետրուար ամսուան ընթացքին, մենք կը յիշենք Հայոց պատմութեան փոթորկալից դրուագներէն մին - Վարդանանք եւ Վարդանանց պատերազմը, եւ հարց կուտանք՝ ի՞նչ էր այն մղդիչ ոյժը, որ առաջնորդեց Վարդան Մամիկոնեանը եւ անոր ընկերները, դէմ դնելու մահուան ոգիին, ի գին նահատակութեան:

Վարդան եւ անոր ընկերները իսկապէս սուրբ հերոսներ էին: Անոնց մտահոգութիւնը ջուրին վրայ քալել չէր, այլ մահուան գինով յաղթանակ ապահովել, ինչպէս Յիսուս ըրաւ իրենց վրայ: Վարդանանքի մէջ կար գոհողութեան գիտակցութիւնը: Անոնց համար, իրենց մարմնային կեանքի փրկութիւնը առաջնահերթ չէր, այլ Հայ ժողովուրդի խղիճի ու հաւատքի ազատութիւնը: Անոնք իրենց աչքերը յարելով Քրիստոսի, բնաւ չընկրկեցան եւ նահատակուեցան վասն Քրիստոսի ու Հայրենեաց:

Թերեւս այսօր Աստուած մեզմէ կ'ակնկալէ մեզն (կամ աւելի քեզն) գոհողութիւն: Աստուած առիթ կու տայ, որ մեր գոհողութեամբ մենք ալ, մեր աչքերը յարած պահեմք Յիսուս Քրիստոսի վրայ:

Ի՞նչ է մեր ակնկալութիւնը: Միայն ջուրի վրայ քալել: Ի՞նչ է Աստուծոյ ակնկալութիւնը մեզմէ: Ջուրի վրայ քալելէ աւելի, հետեւիլ Յիսուսի գոհողութեան օրինակին, օգնել մեղաւորին, մոլորածին, տկարին եւ անկարին: Կարեկցութեան ձեռք երկարել որք, աղփատ ու տկար մանուկներուն: Սէր եւ գուրգուրանք արտայայտել տարեցներուն: Եւ, վերջապէս, Աստուծոյ փրկարար խօսքը փոխանցել համայն աշխարհին: Այս բոլորը սիրով, վստահութեամբ եւ առանց երկմտութեան, եւ Տէրը պիտի հանդարտեցնէ մեր կեանքի բոլոր փոթորիկները: □

Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը Աստուծոյ մէկ կողմէն է, որուն միջոցով կրնաք ձեր գոհողութեան լումաները յատկացնել Աստուծոյ գործին: Տանք առատաձեռնութեամբ եւ Աստուած պիտի օրհնէ մեր նուէրները:

Այո՛, կը փափաքինք օժանդակել Աւետարանչական Գործին:

Ներփակ կը գտնէք մեր նուէրը \$ _____

Անուն - - - - -

Հասցէ - - - - -

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Ձեր նուէրները կրնաք դրկել Աւետարանչակի հասցէին
31 W. Century Rd. Paramus, NJ 07652

Sarkis Acopian

Sarkis Acopian, 80, died at his home in Easton, PA on Jan. 18, 2007. He was a visionary philanthropist whose legacy of giving back to society has touched lives of numerous men, women and children in some of the most underserved areas including Armenia and Karabagh.



Born in Tabriz, Iran, Mr. Acopian moved to the United States in 1945 to study engineering. After serving in the U.S. Army, he worked for Weller Electric Corp and designed a power sander that became one of their main products. In 1957, he started his own company, designating and manufacturing the first ever solar radio. This eventually led into the power supply business which is still operating today: Acopian Technical Company.

Sarkis Acopian was a civic-minded man who believed in philanthropy. He has made numerous donations to national and international causes including the AMAA.

Mr. Acopian is survived by his wife Bobbye and sons Greg and Jeff, and their families. □

Thomas Bailey

Thomas E. Bailey (Son-in-Law of Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian), of Wilmington, DE, passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2007, surrounded by his loving family. He was 59 years old.

Tom was born in Norfolk, VA, grew up in Silver Spring, MD and moved to the Philadelphia area in his teens. He was a financial planner for 35 years and worked for Massachusetts Mutual, New York Life and most recently as an independent broker. Tom was a devoted husband and father and for 12 years was a dedicated baseball coach for Wilmington Optimist Little League.

He is survived by Vera (the daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian), his wife of 37 years; his children, Adam, Sarah and Katherine; siblings, Charlotte Pappas, John Bailey, and Rita Downey; and 20 nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service in celebration of his life was held on January 27, at the Chandler Funeral Home, Sharpley.

Contributions in lieu of flowers are suggested to go to the AMAA Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian Fund. □

Dr. James H. Misirian, II

Jim Misirian was an educator, who enjoyed teaching high school, college and adult learners. This love to teaching, particularly God's Word, was evidenced throughout his career.



After his graduation from Bloomsburg University in PA, he taught special education students in several High Schools in PA. Later he earned his Master's Degree from Temple University in Philadel-

phia, PA and a Master's Degree in Systematic Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary in Texas. After his graduation he continued to teach at the California Bible College as an assistant professor and then accepted a call to pastor the First Baptist Church of Wenatchee, WA. He continued his education at the Dallas Theological Seminary earning a Doctorate of Ministries Degree. He continued to teach and preach in the Wenatchee area, until he was asked to be President of the Shepherds Home in Union Grove, WI.

Following his retirement, Jim volunteered for people who wanted to learn English as a second language. He taught Adult Sunday School and was involved with several Bible studies and small groups at Grace Chapel.

Dr. Misirian was the son of the late James H. and Misirian, Sr. and Anna (Asadorian) Misirian of Philadelphia. His family includes three sons, Nathan, Jonathan, and Joel and 6 grandchildren. Jim passed away on Nov. 28, 2006 at the age of 62. □

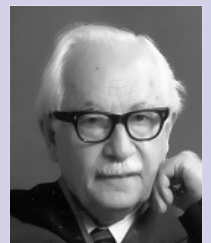
Aurora Elizabeth Sarafian Fisher

Aurora Elizabeth Sarafian Fisher died peacefully at home in San Francisco on Friday, January 26th, at the age of 87. Born in Alexandria, Egypt, she came to the United States in the 1920s as an Armenian immigrant. She was raised in the Boston suburbs as the eldest of five children. She received her college degree with honors in Chemistry from Wellesley College. After college, she went on to work as a chemist and later moved on to Time-Life

Rev. Manasseh Shnorhokian

Rev. Manasseh Shnorhokian, one of the oldest members of the Armenian Evangelical ministerium, went home to be with the Lord, on Monday Dec. 11, 2006. A Christian gentleman with deep love for God and the Armenian people, Rev. Shnorhokian served as an educator, editor and pastor for over 65 years and touched the lives of countless people.

Rev Shnorhokian was born in Aintab (Turkish Armenia), in 1908. He was the son of Hovhannes and Victoria Shnorhokian. He received his college education at Aleppo College (Syria) and at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon and graduated with a BS in Biology in 1931. After serving a few years as principle in the Armenian Evangelical schools in northern Syria, he entered the Near East School of Theology and graduated in 1936.



Rev. Shnorhokian was married to Alice Khachadourian in 1942, and they were blessed with two sons and one daughter.

In December of 1936, almost single-handedly, he founded *Badanégan Artzakank*, a monthly magazine for children and adolescents. At the same time, he taught in Central High School, Beirut, Lebanon, and later became the dean and principal, serving until 1950. In 1937, he joined the editorial staff of the newly established monthly *Chanassér*, and from 1950 to 1968, he was the editor in chief.

In 1966, Rev. Shnorhokian was ordained to Christian ministry, and served as minister in the mission field of Tehran, Iran, for a year, and in Aleppo, Syria, for two years.

In 1980, he and his wife came to the United States and in 1981, he assumed the pastorate of the Armenian Cong' Church of the Martyrs in Worcester, MA and served until 1985. Later, for brief periods of time, he became an interim minister of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, Canada, and of Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco.

He retired from pastoral work in 1990, but continued to work on a part-time basis at the AMAA Library and Research Center publishing pamphlets and booklets on topics dealing with Armenian Evangelical history and Armenian national issues.

The funeral services were held on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ. Rev. Shnorhokian is survived by his wife, Alice of 64 years; his sons, Harout and Ivan; his daughter, Mrs. Arpi Sarian; and their respective families. Blessed be the memory of Rev. Manasseh Shnorhokian. □

Inc., first in NY and then in Cairo. She met her husband Dana, in Cairo. They were married in Jerusalem and eventually moved back to the United States to settle on a family-owned ranch near Blythe, California.

Betty Fisher contributed her energies to improve the lives of the residents of Palo Verde Valley and the town of Blythe through hospital, school, and cultural activities. Over the past ten years, during her husband's illness and after he passed away, she had been living with her daughter, Bonnie and her family in San Francisco. Betty is survived by her children, Sally, Bart, Bonnie and Wendy and by her eight grandchildren. □

Grace Ohanian

Grace (Boyajian) Ohanian, 90, of Remington Street died Jan. 13, 2007, at R.I. Hospital, Providence. She was the beloved wife of the late Karnick Ohanian.

Born in Providence, daughter of the late Paul and Zohra (Tajerian) Boyajian, she had lived in Providence and later Cranston before moving to Warwick in 1950. Mrs. Ohanian enjoyed reading the Bible and teaching Sunday school. She was the devoted mother of Harold K. Ohanian of Warwick and Henry H. Ohanian and his wife, Dr. Connie Pollack, of St. Louis, Mo.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church, Providence, followed by a private burial. Donations in lieu of flowers were made to the AMAA and to the church. □

Stephen Tutelian

Stephen Tutelian, 82, formerly of Drexel Hill, PA, a retired printing company salesman, died of lung cancer at the Granite Farms Estates retirement community in Media.

Mr. Tutelian grew up in North Attleboro, MA. His Armenian parents emigrated to the United States after fleeing the Turkish invasion of their country. After graduating from high school, he served in the Navy during World War II. He then earned a bachelor's degree from Tufts University in Boston. For more than 10 years, he was president of the Tufts Club of Philadelphia.

Mr. Tutelian served on the vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter in Drexel Hill and was president of the Residents' Association of Granite Farms Estates. He was an Eagles and Penn State football fan. His wife of 60 years, Louise Donohoe Tutelian, died in 2001. He is survived by his son Howard, daughters Mary Jean and Louise; a sister; and seven grandchildren. Memorial contributions were made to the AMAA for Orphan and Child Care Program in Armenia. □

Sarkis A. Telfeyan, MD

Sarkis A. Telfeyan, MD, of Great Neck, NY, died of natural causes at age 91 in his home on Dec. 14, 2006. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Elida, his sons, Edward and Bruce, and his daughters, Lael and Daphne, and five grandchildren.

He graduated from Stanford University in 1938 and from the University of Chicago Medical School in 1942. Upon graduation, he interned at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

As a regimental surgeon in World War II, he served in the European Theatre with the 1st Army and left the service in 1946 with the rank of Major. Following the war, he and Elida moved to Great Neck, NY where he established his private medical practice. His practice was marked by his complete devotion to his patients evident in his diagnostic skills and "bedside manner." He lowered his fees for the underprivileged and continued making house calls almost up until his own retirement at age 90. In 1953, he was among the founding physicians of the North Shore University Hospital, in Manhasset, NY, and in 1968, he began 36 years of service as a Great Neck Public Schools physician, serving as the Chief Medical Officer for the schools from 1981 until 2004. He served as a mentor and role model for many young people who followed his lead into the medical profession..

He was a man of great faith. He was a lay leader of the Community Church of Great Neck, serving as Chair of the Board of Elders and Deacons. He served as Vice Chairman of the AMAA for three years. His father and uncles were founding members of the AMAA, and Elida continued to serve on the board of AMAA for many years.

For the past 44 years, he was President of the Telfeyan Evangelical Fund, the family philanthropic organization founded by his uncles and father in 1916. He guided the fund in assisting Armenian students at institutions of higher education and Armenian causes.

Dr. Telfeyan and Elida had a remarkable life together. They shared in all endeavors as a team, including the building of his medical practice. They were always devoted and committed to each other and their family.

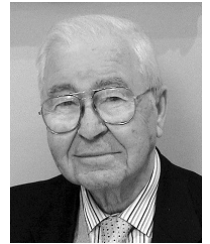
A memorial service was held in Great Neck, NY. In memoriam, the family will gratefully accept tax-deductible donations in Dr. Sarkis Telfeyan's memory to the Telfeyan Evangelical Fund, 24 Windsor Road, Great Neck, NY 11021. □



Anton Torunian

(January 1, 1918 – December 4, 2006)

I knew my father as a man of faith and purpose. There was a purpose for dad that God had set out. The year I was born he just started a new job at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal as Director of Finances.



Dad was really good with finances but that was not his purpose. His hospital was the only one in Quebec that was not in debt while he was there. This was a testament to his integrity and he gained respect. God blessed him as a good steward, as a compassionate man and a faithful man. As God blessed dad, dad in turn blessed others. Not only did the Jewish community get blessed so did many young Armenian immigrants, who could not otherwise find jobs and there were others that he sponsored to stay in the country, which worked miracles in their lives through him.

Dad was one of the founders of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, an elder, and chairman of the board for many years. Financially he managed the church's investments and made it grow enough that they could afford their own church building. But that was not his purpose; Mom and Dad together were peace keepers and reconcilers preserving the unity. His purpose was to dwell in unity and to show God's love, respect, and dignity to people of all statures. Mom & Dad together were given to hospitality; they really loved their pastors and missionaries, spent time with them encouraging them as elders.

Dad was on the board of directors of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) and for over a decade he oversaw the stewardship and investment committees.

There was a purpose why my dad and mom found themselves in Grace Gospel Hall. It was their spiritual refuge. God also blessed that church assembly through dad's financial management and investments, enough to make it grow so that they could purchase their own church building too.

There was a purpose why my dad participated in the Diabetic Children's Foundation. Through dad and Dr. Mimi Belmonté they helped manage the foundation's investments to enable this camp to succeed. This helped many weary parents of diabetic children.

God has an eternal purpose to work things out for His glory. And I know that God used dad as a tool in His hands and a vessel of blessing to further that eternal purpose. □

- By David Torunian

IN MEMORIAM
Hrant Dink
1954-2007

Mr. Hrant Dink, a member of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Gedik Pasa (Istanbul), a very prominent outspoken voice in Turkey and unwavering in his determination to bring about dialogue to have the Armenian Genocide recognized, was gunned down as he left his office on Friday, January 19, 2007. Although he had constantly received death threats, he was resolute to bring about some change through his writings as editor of the bilingual Turkish-Armenian weekly newspaper, **Agos**, which he founded in 1996.



Hrant Dink was born in Malatya in 1954. When he was seven, the family moved to Istanbul. His parents were unfortunately divorced and Hrant and his two brothers were taken in at the Armenian Orphanage (*Bolso Badanegan Doon*) run by the Armenian Evangelical community in Gedik Pasa. He was also very active in the Church's Tuzla Summer Camp (Camp Armen), where he spent his summers and later became camp counselor and the Administrator of the Camp. In 1979 when the State took over the camp, Mr. Dink struggled to have the camp restored to the church and the children, however, unfortunately all attempts were unsuccessful.

Hrant Dink studied at the Armenian Schools and after graduation from High School attended Istanbul University receiving a degree in zoology from the Science Faculty.

Funeral Services of Hrant Dink were held on Tuesday, January, 23, 2006. Rev. Krikor Agabaloglu, pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Gedik Pasa and Rev. René Léonian, the AMAA Representative in Armenia participated in the graveside service and expressed the condolences of the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical Church worldwide.

Hrant Dink leaves behind his wife, Rakel and three children.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America mourns with the Armenian community in Turkey and prays that God will comfort his wife and young family in their time of sorrow.

May God's mercy and grace prevail now and forever.



Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road
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